

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of January 6, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18, all claims in the application.

The Examiner first rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-13, 15, and 17 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sandberg et al.* '446. *Sandberg et al.* '446 describes tooling which forms ribs on substantially rectangular patties. The ribs stand out on the patties. *Sandberg* does not teach contouring the patties with curved lines or sides in both the horizontal and vertical profiles. The contouring of the molded article in both the horizontal and vertical profiles is an important aspect of the invention. Particularly as set forth in new claims 19 and 20, the horizontal and vertical profiles can be substantially identically contoured so that a rotationally symmetrical article, such as a chicken drumstick can be simulated, given the forming limitations of a reciprocating mold plate machine. Support for claims 19 and 20 can be derived from Figures 5 and 6 and 11, and from the common understanding that a chicken drumstick is substantially rotationally symmetrical about its axis.

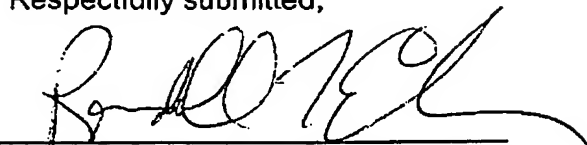
The Examiner next rejected claims 5, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by *Sandberg et al.* '446.

However based on the asserted allowability of claims 1 and 10, these claims should be allowable as well.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and request issuance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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